

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printing unit comprising:

- a first plate cylinder;
- a first blanket cylinder for selectively contacting the first plate cylinder;
- a first inker for inking the first plate cylinder;
- a second plate cylinder;
- a second blanket cylinder for selectively contacting the second plate cylinder;
- a second inker for inking the second plate cylinder;
- a first inker drive gear connected to the first inker for driving the first inker;
- a motor uniquely associated with the printing unit and configured to drive the first inker

drive gear; and

a gear train engaging the first inker drive gear and being driven by the first inker drive gear so as to drive the first plate cylinder, the first blanket cylinder, the second blanket cylinder, the second plate cylinder and the second inker.

2. The printing unit as recited in claim 1, wherein the motor directly engages the first inker drive gear;

3. The printing unit as recited in claim 1, wherein the motor includes a pinion for directly engaging the first inker drive gear.

4. The printing unit as recited in claim 1, wherein the first inker drive gear is a compound gear having a first teething engaging the motor and a second teething engaging the gear train.

5. The printing unit as recited in claim 1, wherein the inker drive includes a first teething engaging the motor and the gear train.

6. The printing unit as recited in claim 1, wherein the gear train includes:

- a first plate drive gear driving the first plate cylinder and engaging the first inker drive

gear;

a first blanket drive gear engaging the first plate drive gear and driving the first blanket cylinder;

a second blanket drive gear engaging the first blanket drive gear and driving the second blanket cylinder;

a second plate drive gear engaging the second blanket drive gear and driving the second plate cylinder; and

a second inker drive gear engaging the second plate drive gear and driving the second inker.

7. The printing unit as recited in claim 1, wherein the gear train includes a plurality of gears, each of the plurality of gears being associated with one of the first and second blanket cylinders, the first and second plate cylinders, and the second inker.

8. The printing unit as recited in claim 7, wherein each of the first and second blanket cylinders and the first and second plate cylinders have a diameter equal to a diameter of the associated gear of the gear train.

9. The printing unit as recited in claim 8, wherein the diameter of each of the plurality of gears of the gear train is equal each other.

10. A method of driving a printing unit, comprising:

driving a first inker drive gear using a motor uniquely associated with the printing unit;

driving a first inker connected to the first inker drive gear using the first inker drive gear;

and

driving a first plate cylinder, a first blanket cylinder, a second blanket cylinder, a second plate cylinder and a second inker using a drive train, the gear train engaging and being driven by the first inker drive gear.

11. The method as recited in claim 10, further comprising engaging the motor directly with the

first inker drive gear.

12. The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the motor includes a pinion for directly engaging the first inker drive gear.

13. The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the first inker drive gear is a compound gear having a first teething engaging the motor and a second teething engaging the gear train.

14. The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the inker drive includes a first teething engaging the motor and the gear train.

15. The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the gear train includes a plurality of gears, each of the plurality of gears being associated with one of the first and second blanket cylinders, the first and second plate cylinders, and the second inker.

16. The method as recited in claim 15, wherein each of the first and second blanket cylinders and the first and second plate cylinders have a diameter equal to a diameter of the associated gear of the gear train.

17. The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the diameter of each of the plurality of gears of the gear train is equal each other.